

Andrew Burnaby to George Washington, December 14, 1763, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE REVEREND ANDREW BURNABY.

LEGHORN Decr. 14th. 1763 —

DEAR SIR,

Few things give a susceptible mind more real satisfaction, than to find Oneself remember'd by those one esteems. This satisfaction I had a few days ago by receiving a very kind letter from you dated the 14th. of August past. I assure you Nothing could flatter me more, as it was a proof to me of the continuance of your friendship; and Nothing give me greater pleasure, as it brought me an Account of your and Mrs. Washingtons Welfare.

Give me leave to thank you both for the kind congratulations you make me upon my present situation; I find it extremely Agreeable; and have never had better health or better spirits than since I came here. I took the rout of France in my journey, and made some stay at Paris. I had an Opportunity of visiting most of the King's palaces, and of seeing the cheif curiosities; I passed through the following Cities; Boulogne; Montruil, Abbeville; Amiers; Lyons, Avignon; Nismes; Montpellier; Aix; and Marseilles. Here I embarked upon the Mediterranean, and came to Leghorn by Sea; My whole journey took me up near three Months. You must not expect a description of places, for it would take up a Volume: I shall only say of Leghorn; that it is a small, neat, pretty fortified city; containing about 40,000 Inhabitants, which consist of all Nations under the Sun. I have an Excellent house here, and a comfortable Appointment. At the same time I meet with every mark of Civility and

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Attention. I have an Opportunity of being absent about two Months Every Summer, which will find me occasion in a few years of seeing all Italy. This last, I went to Florence, Luca, Pisa, and Pistoia: the former of these places is magnificent, and stored with the finest Curiosities in the World.

We are at present in expectation of the Duke of York; he is now at Genoa. His arrival will make this place very gay; though gayety is a thing we seldom want here; for we have Opera's, Batledo's, Music, Balls, Masques, all the Year round. Some of these things I attend now and then; but in general am too serious to keep up with the Italians; the business of their lives is amusement and dancing;¹ they have lost all the Spirit of the Romans, and you cannot find the least traces of the Antient Italia, except in the quickness of parts which distinguishes its Natives. However the fine Climate, fine Arts, sweet language, and remains of Antiquity, make it upon the whole so entirely to my taste, that without something very extraordinary or extremely advantageous, I shall be perfectly satisfied to continue here great part of my life. What will still add to my satisfaction will be the pleasure of hearing from my friends in America now and then, for I assure you I shall never forget them; and there is None I shall remember with More Affection than yourself and Mrs. Washington; I wish you both Every happiness this life can furnish, and beg leave to assure you that I remain, dear Sir, with great sincerity, Your very faithfull and Obedient Servant

ANDW BURNABY.

I beg to be remembered to your Neighbours at Belvoir. When you do me the favour to write to me, direct for me to the Care of Messrs. Mestrezat and Liolard Merchts. in London

¹ Mr. Burnaby, in his Travels in Virginia, describes the "jiggs" of the Virginians, and notes their similarity to the "trescone" of the Tuscans. "These dances," he says, "are without any method or regularity: a gentleman and lady stand up, and dance about the room, one of them retiring, the other pursuing, then perhaps meeting, in an irregular fantastical manner. After some time, another lady must sit down, she being, as they term it, cut out: the

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second lady acts the same part which the first did, till somebody cuts her out. The gentlemen perform in the same manner."